

2014 Leader & Ender Challenge! Lozenges!

© Bonnie K Hunter & Quiltville.com 1997-2014 All Rights Reserved.

This is coming a few months early.

In the past we've wrangled out a New Leader & Ender challenge in JULY – but since so many of us have finished our [Split 9-Patch](#) challenges due to those being a much bigger block than either the [Spoolin' Around](#) or the [Cheddar Bow-Ties](#) Challenges--4 times as large! They finish at 6" so you can fit 4 spools or 4 Bow-Ties within one Split 9-Patch Block.

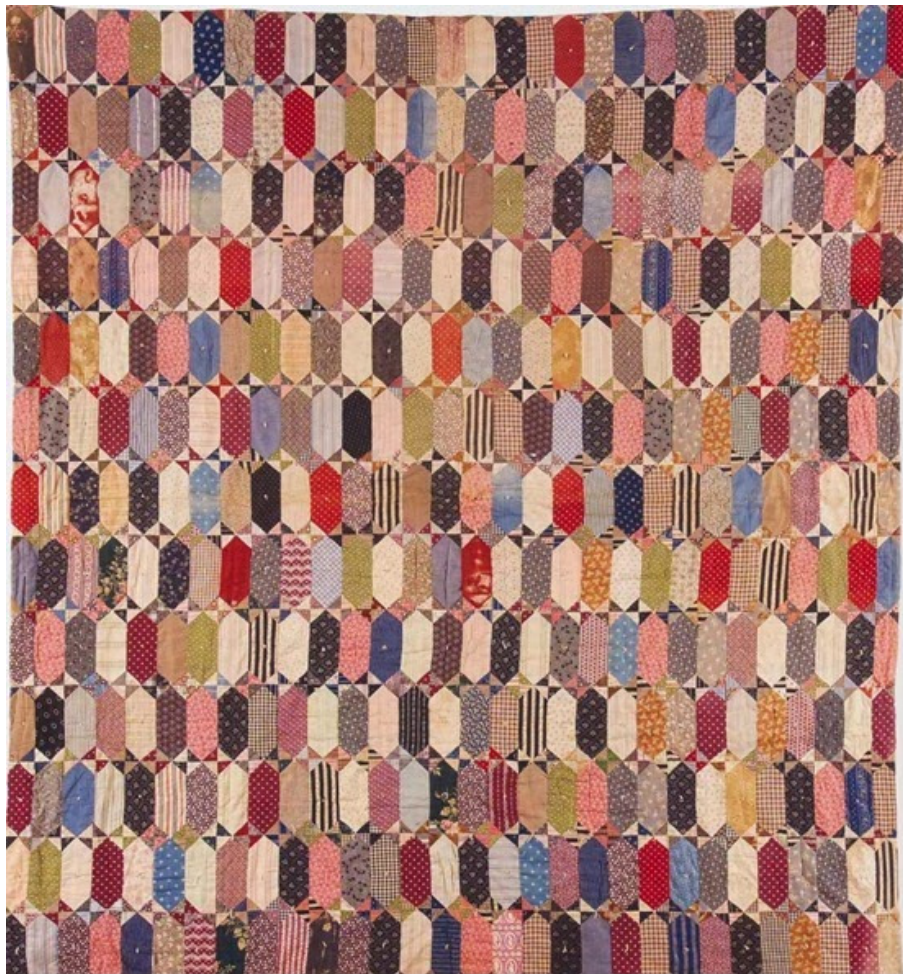
Which means --we are in need of a new challenge!

I posted a photo of this quilt on our [Quiltville Friends](#) Facebook Page last month to much clamoring for the pattern

"Could we PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE do this as our next Leader & Ender Challenge?!?!?!"

I'm all in!

Here is an image of the full antique quilt that inspired all of the hubbub from our now more than 50,000+ Facebook readers:



Stained Glass, 1890. Made by Rs. Frances Clarke Westergren. Boston. From the book Massachusetts Quilts, Our Common Wealth.

Just Look at all that sparkle going on in this lovely scrap quilt!

Things that made me fall in love with it:

- Small triangles with high contrast between dark and light.
- NON SQUARE blocks!
- Great for using pieces from our Scrap User's System!

I chose which size I wanted the Lozenges to be by the process of elimination. If I cut my pieces from 2.5" strips --that means my corner triangles would have to come from 1.5" squares...TINY. Not sure I want to go that small.

The next size up on the corner sew and flip square in my system is 2". That means they would pair with a 3.5" X 6.5" rectangle ---making for a quilt that we could build rather quickly and make good use of some of those larger prints we've been saving.

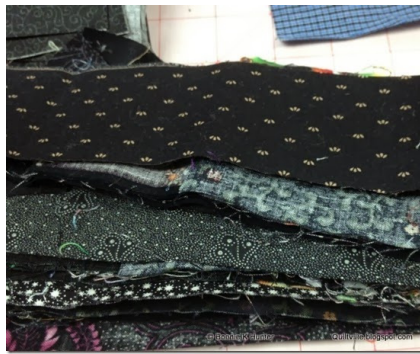
Of course, if you want to go smaller, or longer -- feel free! This is YOUR Challenge. You can do the math, I know you can. Maybe you have a stack of charm packs to use up? You could cut those in half and build lozenges from 2.5" X 5" rectangles and sew them with those 1.5" sew and flip corner squares -- no need to cut them shorter as this quilt is built in horizontal rows. Your lozenges would finish at 2" X 4.5". Whatever is the best use of the fabric you want to see sewn up is what I would go for!

As for me....3.5" X 6.5" rectangles it is!



Pieces, Parts and Sew Much Fun!

I cut 3.5" X 6.5" bricks from my 3.5" strip drawer. Boy, there is a lot of stuff I can use up in there --And then I hit the 2" squares bin. There are plenty of neutrals, but unlike the antique quilt above I am wanting big time contrast on my dark triangles, so I'm using scrappy tone on tone blacks. Not so many of those already cut....



So I pulled the 2" strip bag from the 2" strip drawer and set to cutting squares. Some of this stuff is SO OLD I'm happy to have a place to sew it up!

If I fall short, I've got these lovely blacks that were gifted for my birthday from a reader:

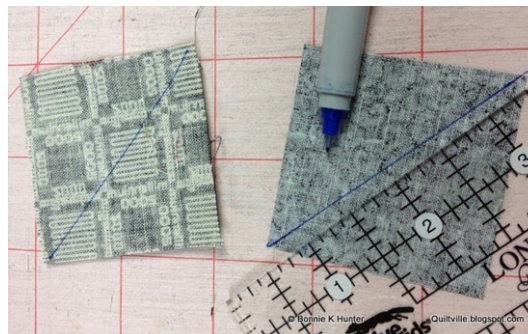
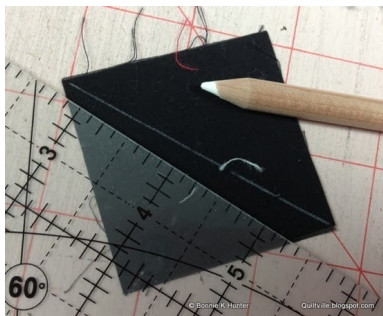
But before we start to sew:



Let's talk MARKING TOOLS!

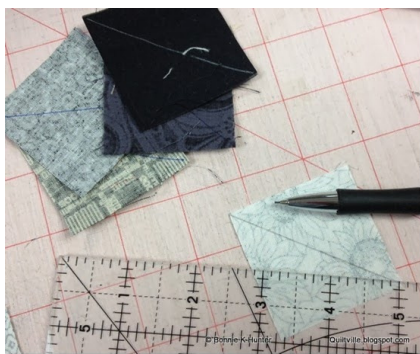
I can hear you now...you mean I HAVE to MARK!? Well, it's up to you. You can aim and shoot, you can eyeball it, you can use an angler or a line straight out from your needle, but I do draw lines.

And I'll tell you why in a minute – but let me show you what I'm using:

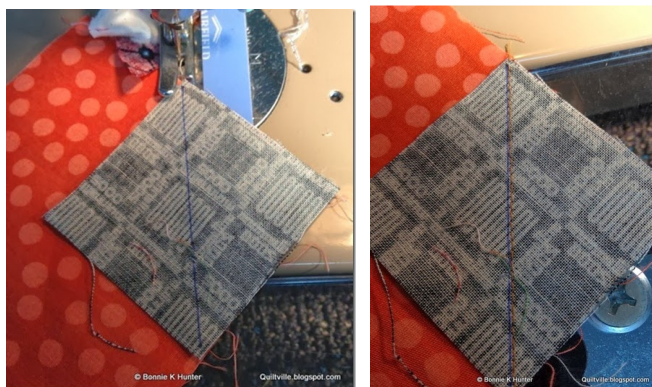


On fabrics with a black back side, I like a white General's chalk pencil.

On black fabrics where the white chalk line is not visible – I'll use a colored fine tipped sharpie or pigma pen.



On very light fabrics, I'll use a push-button pencil with a very fine tip.

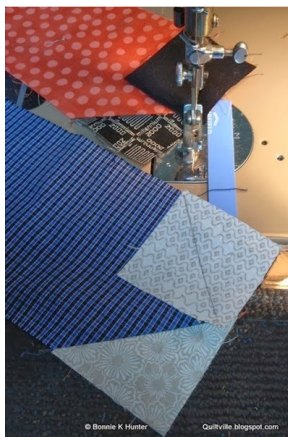


See that line, corner to corner??

I want you to start thinking of something a bit differently. Stop thinking of that line as the SEAM LINE.

It really isn't – it's your fold line! It's the line where we "press over." If you sew ON that line, you will be pressing over from off the left side of the thread and your triangle will be that much too short. It will RARELY if ever reach all the way to the outside edge of your base unit.

What I want is for the left side of my needle to kiss up to the right side of that line...so that when I press, the drawn line, my fold line, will fold right next to my thread. Is that making better sense now? Try it! I bet you will be much happier with your Sew & Flip units!



Sending the next Lozenge through!



Check out this pressing!

If you press two opposite corners IN, and the two remaining opposite corners OUT Your Lozenges will always nest to each other no matter what! Just be consistent, use one of your units as your pressing guide and press them all identically.

And yes, I'm one of those who will fold back my triangle, make sure the edges match the edges of my base rectangle, and then trim off the excess approximately 1/4" from the sewn line. If you leave the whole square and the base rectangle intact, you have bulk, and you can't press to nest like this!

Seams ALL OPPOSING! SWEET!



Half of the Lozenges will have neutral corners, and half of them will have black corners!

When you join these side by side, and then join rows together, the hour glass units that form will dance because they lean in opposite directions. Check it out in the antique quilt above! And when you join the units into rows, and join the rows..ALL the seams should nest row to row to row if you trim and press this way!

I'm so excited about this project--can you tell? If you piece a quilt with 30 blocks across and 15 rows down, for a total of 450 Lozenges you will have a quilt center that measures 90" X 90". I'm just using this size for perspective to give you reference. Make it ANY SIZE you want.

And for those who follow me on Facebook, We I have started a new GROUP for us called **Quiltville's Open Studio!** A place to Sew, Share & Grow! If you are a member of Facebook, you should be able to just click JOIN and you will be added, if not on Facebook, we invite you to sign up, it's free!

Feel free to share photos of whatever project you are working on at Open Studio! Ask questions, leave answers for others -- treat Quiltville's Open Studio as an online guild full of fabric, friends and fun! Please SHARE and INVITE all your quilting friends to join us! ♥

Of course, you don't want to miss my regular postings on my [Quiltville Friends](#) page.

Isn't this exciting? A **New Book Cover** -- A New Leader & Ender Challenge Project, Lozenges! And a New Facebook group to show and share and grow with. Could life get any better?

A stylized, cursive signature of the name "Bonnie" in black ink.